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SUBJECT: OSCE/PERMANENT COUNCIL: RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY  
ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT SOARES

11. Post is authorized to present the following statement at  
the November 13 Permanent Council meeting in Vienna.

Begin text:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States joins in warmly welcoming Mr. Joao Soares,  
President of the OSCE's Parliamentary Assembly. We take  
particular note of his recent role in leading the PA's  
election monitoring deployment of 94 election observers to  
nine geographically and demographically disparate states in  
the United States. The PA observers did excellent work.

We note that the Parliamentary Assembly in this particular  
instance, and owing to the absence of short-term observers,  
opted not to join ODIHR in a consolidated observation mission  
and in issuing a common statement on the elections. It is  
our hope, under President Soares's leadership, this will  
prove to be the exception to the general rule of common  
statements, given the genuine desire expressed by the  
leadership of both institutions in this respect, and in  
accordance with the 1997 Cooperation Agreement between the  
two organizations.

We join once again in expressing our appreciation for the  
important work undertaken by the Parliamentary Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

End text.  
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